



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CONNECTICUT, INC.®

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CGA Government Administration and Elections Committee

March 3, 2014 Public Hearing

Testimony Submitted by Alison Rivard, VP Public Issues

Opposition to:

Raised Bill No. 5358

**An Act Authorizing The Regulation Review Committee To Recommend The Repeal Of
Obsolete Or Burdensome Regulations.**

Under the governing Principles applicable to the League of Women Voters across the U.S., the League of Women Voters of Connecticut, a nonpartisan organization of over 1600 statewide members, believes that democratic government depends upon informed and active participation in government, and that responsible government should share in the solution of economic and social problems that affect the general welfare and promote the conservation and development of natural resources in the public interest.

RB 5358 would enable the legislative regulation review committee to review “**any regulation of any agency**” and to recommend the repeal of burdensome or obsolete regulations. The Raised Bill is apparently applicable to all Regulations of State Agencies included within the State Administrative Code, ranging from Title 19 *Public Health and Safety*, Title 17a *Social and Human Services*, Title 21 *Consumer Protection*, to Title 28 *Civil Preparedness and Emergency Services*, and Title 22a *Environmental Protection*.

As our state continues to struggle with high unemployment and low job growth, we understand the need to examine our state’s practices. We are concerned that the proposal fails to acknowledge any benefits of regulatory action; it focuses **solely** on whether a regulation is onerous or burdensome to the persons or businesses who are subject to its provisions. *Absent is any recognition of public health and safety, improvement of the general welfare or protection of our natural resources as vital goals of government deserving of protection through government regulation.*

Connecticut provides an array of economic, advisory, and technical assistance to the business community. Connecticut also serves to protect the well-being of its citizens. The balancing of these needs is the basis for responsible growth. The League of Women Voters of Connecticut

believes that an informed, transparent and accountable process for promulgating and amending state regulations can benefit the citizens, businesses and municipalities of Connecticut, *when* that process recognizes the need to balance business interests with with protecting public health and safety, preserving our natural heritage, and meeting the needs of our most vulnerable members of society.

Thank you for your consideration.